



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

BY HAND

The Honorable Kwame R. Brown
Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia
John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 504
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Chairman Brown:

I write to communicate the Administration's position on legislation that will be before the Council for vote at the January 17, 2012 Additional Legislative Meeting.

"Proposed Contract Modification CA 19-230 with U.S. Security Associates, Inc., Disapproval Resolution of 2012"

This contract requires U.S. Security Associates, Inc., to provide armed and unarmed special police officers and security guards necessary to protect various owned and leased facilities. The value of the contract is \$5,470,205.07 for the option period beginning on December 20, 2011 and continuing through March 31, 2012.

U.S. Security Associates has provided city-wide security services for various District government facilities since August 2009 and this contract was submitted to the Council in lieu of a full year contract to allow the District enough time to solicit and award a new contract under the new agency, the Department of General Services (DGS). Rather than disapprove this partial extension, I urge the Council to vote against the disapproval resolution and permit OCP to complete the solicitation process it has already begun rather than hurriedly working to identify an alternative vendor in the event of the Council's contract disapproval. I ask the Council to vote against this disapproval resolution.

“Proposed Contract Modification CA 19-237 with U.S. Security Associates, Inc., Disapproval Resolution of 2012”

This contract requires U.S. Security Associates, Inc., to provide security services for the District of Columbia Public Schools. The value of the contract is \$3,653,021.72 for a period which began on January 1, 2012 that would continue through June 30, 2012.

On October 1, 2009, Hawk One Security, Inc., the incumbent contractor providing security services to the District of Columbia Public Schools, on behalf of the Metropolitan Police Department, defaulted on its contract and placed the safety and well-being of District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS) students at risk. Recognizing the safety risk of this default, the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) worked to fulfill services and avoid service interruption as the Office of Contracts and Procurement (OCP) identified vendors to provide school security services. The need to hastily identify a vendor generated anxiety and consternation in many District parents.

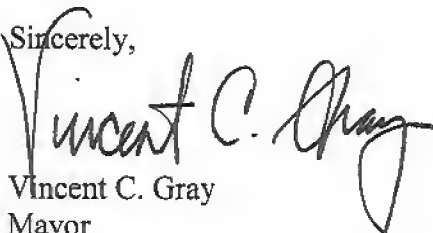
The importance of a certain and stable security service for the District’s children cannot be overstated and I am deeply concerned that this disapproval resolution will, once again, place school security in a precarious and unstable position. I am asking the Council to consider the impact this contract disapproval, occurring in the middle of a school year, would have on the DCPS and MPD as well as the ramifications of transitioning to a new vendor to provide school security services. My administration will work assiduously to ensure the solicitation is completed in time for commencement of a new contract by the end of the current school year in order to prepare for School Year 2012-2013. I ask the Council to vote against this disapproval resolution.

“Medical Marijuana Cultivation Center and Dispensary Locations Emergency Act of 2012”

My administration is committed to addressing the legitimate concerns of Ward 5 residents regarding the placement of medical marijuana cultivation and dispensaries. It appears that the “Legalization of Marijuana for Medical Treatment Amendment Act” has resulted in a high concentration of cultivation centers in one ward and this unintended consequence must be addressed. However, I am concerned that this emergency will further delay implementation of this important program which is necessary to assist individuals who suffer with chronic debilitating pain. I am also concerned that this emergency may not be legally sufficient and would preclude the development of a balanced and reasonable solution within the four corners of the existing law and regulations. As a result, I urge members to vote against this emergency and to work with my administration to craft a workable solution. In moving to address the legitimate concerns of Ward 5 residents, the Council may be gravitating into zoning matters that could be within the purview of the Zoning Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to express the Administration's views on these important pieces of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Vincent C. Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Vincent" being the most prominent.

Vincent C. Gray
Mayor

cc: Members of the Council of the District of Columbia